

NEWS AND NOTES OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS

Scott Found Nothing to Detain Him

One Actor Whose Upward Path Contained No Obstacles

The history of the theatre reveals here and there a royal road to fame and success, but seldom has it been travelled by the male of the species. His path is one of thorns. He has little upon which he can depend save ability, and even then he has to endure short engagements, linked together by long periods of idleness.

A remarkable exception is Cyril Scott, who plays the leading comedy part in David Belasco's production of "Polly With a Past" at the Belasco Theatre. Since first entering the theatre Mr. Scott has never wanted for an engagement. He has worked hard and earnestly, it is true, but never without devastating discouragement.

Born in Braintree, Ireland, the comedian came to live in New York at the age of four. His ambition for the stage was fostered by a dramatic critic of this city prominent during Scott's boyhood. The critic gained the opportunity to observe young Scott through the friendship which existed between the Irish lad and his own son. This friendship afforded Mr. Scott the chance of seeing many plays and studying many player folk. He did with such earnestness that he was able to give striking imitations of them all. The genius for imitation which he displayed inspired the critic to urge him to follow a stage career at the end of his school days, advice which was followed.

MME. NAZIMOVA



In "A Doll's House."

loved by the ambitious youth against the usual family opposition.

Seeing the determination of his son the older Scott entered into an agreement with him whereby it was understood that Cyril was to have his chance to "make good" along the theatrical line for a period of three years, at the end of which time he was to go into business unless he could furnish substantial evidence of progress.

But Mr. Scott did not need three years to prove his talents. He secured an engagement with Mrs. Fiske—then Minnie Maddern—in "Caprice." It was while playing two small bits in this production that the Frohmans took it over and Cyril Scott had the opportunity to substitute for the leading comedian at a dress rehearsal attended by Daniel Frohman. So pleased was Mr. Frohman with young Scott's performance that he shortly gave him the chance to continue in the rôle, an opportunity which marked the commencement of a phenomenally successful career.

Following "Caprice" Mr. Scott continued with Minnie Maddern for another season in "In Spite of All," a piece in which he scored a big success.

Newly established as a comedian of ability, Mr. Scott was engaged by the late Richard Mansfield for two years, which was followed by his appearance with "Lotta" in Belasco's play entitled "Pawn Ticket 210," after which he spent two years in association with J. L. Southern. Then there came a period of successes under the management of the late Charles Frohman, Mr. Scott appearing in "Men and Women," "The Lost Paradise," "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and "Liberty Hall," followed by a five-year engagement as leading comedian of the Empire Stock Company, that famous organization of Charles Frohman's which closed its successful season with "Sowing the Wind."

Leaving the Frohman management, Cyril Scott entered next a period of success with De Wolf Hopper, which he left again for a year to accept an offer from Mr. Belasco to support Leslie Collier in "The Heart of Maryland."

But the musical play had taken its toll in Mr. Scott's fancy, and he went back to it after his engagement with William Collier in a special production of "The Heart of Maryland."

MAJESTIC Mata. Wed. and Sat. week beginning to-morrow night. SELWYN & CO. present.

"WHY MARRY?" By JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS with a cast of unusual distinction. Nat C. Goodwin, Edmund Bruce, Shelley Hull, Ernest Lawford, Lotus Robb.

WINTER ORCHESTRA, \$1.00. Except Saturday Night.

LOVE FORBIDDEN HARRY FOX in Oh Look!

The Remarkable Cast to Present "Out There" for the Red Cross Friday and Saturday



HELEN WARE JULIA ARTHUR LAURETTE TAYLOR GEORGE ARLISS ELEANORA DE CISNEROS MRS. FISKE CHAUNCEY OLCOTT JAMES T. POWERS O.P. HEGGIE GEORGE M. COHAN JAMES K. HACKETT H.B. WARNER

An Ugly Duckling Turns Swan

Men like Cohan and Harris, William A. Brady, A. H. Woods and a number of other prominent producers have sometimes picked up failures and turned them into successes. Fortunes are made in the theatre on plays considered absolutely worthless at first. The latest instance is "The Man Who Stayed at Home," the German spy drama now running at the Forty-eighth Street Theatre.

Most New York people know that "The Man Who Stayed at Home" was produced in America three years ago under the title of "The White Feather." It revealed the workings of the German spies in England. But America was not in the war at that time. In consequence the play was a failure, and William Brady shelved it.

Henry Jewett, director of the Copley Theatre, Boston, revived "The White Feather" last summer under its original title. It ran for eight months. Two weeks later William Moore Patch, director of the Pitt Theatre, Pittsburgh, saw the play. He took the next train for New York and purchased the American rights for a song.

"The Man Who Stayed at Home" was produced at the Pitt Theatre, in Pittsburgh, on October 14 of last year; and there it ran for ten weeks, until December 22. Such a thing had never

been heard of in Pittsburgh. Mr. Patch then took the play to Chicago for an engagement of eighteen weeks in the Playhouse, all the time he could get. Finally came the New York production of the play at the Forty-eighth Street Theatre. Next winter Mr. Patch will send six companies on tour. The chief reason for the success of "The Man Who Stayed at Home" may be found in the fact that Mr. Patch has re-written many portions of the play and based its present action on the movement of American troops through England on their way to France. He has, so to speak, grabbed time by the forelock and made "The Man Who Stayed at Home" the most timely play on the war the American stage has yet produced.

But the most interesting part of the romance is yet to come. It seems that Mr. Patch's associates in Pittsburgh, who are all men of considerable wealth, couldn't see "The Man Who Stayed at Home" quite through his eyes, and long ago refused to have anything to do with it. This was absolutely true when it came to producing the piece in New York. So he had to go out and dig for himself. From present indications it looks as though the result of his digging would be a theatrical gold mine.

It seems that Mr. Patch lost thousands of dollars on "The Man Who Stayed at Home" before he turned over a cent. But he had a feeling all along that it was only a question of time before the American people would awaken to the true dangers of German propaganda in this country and to the tremendous difficulties that lay ahead of the Allies before Germany was beaten. All these facts are very forcibly outlined in "The Man Who Stayed

at Home." So Mr. Patch simply hung on and overcame all obstacles.

It is doubtful whether anybody has employed such sizzling language against the Kaiser and Germans in general as Mr. Patch has written into the dialogue of "The Man Who Stayed at Home." Some of his speeches out-Roosevelt Col. Roosevelt; and this is saying a great deal. An ardent advocate of universal compulsory military training as a permanent policy for the United States, Mr. Patch has also written some remarkable lines dealing with this subject in "The Man Who Stayed at Home."

Notable Red Cross Benefit

The most remarkable cast assembled in this country within the memory of the present generation is to present J. Hartley Manners' tragedy-comedy of the great war, "Out There," at the Century Theatre on Friday and Saturday next for the benefit of the American Red Cross. Three performances will be given, including a Saturday matinee. New York is one of seventeen cities to be visited by this all-star organization during the next three weeks.

George Arliss is to play the doctor; H. B. Warner is to be 'Erb, the prizefighter brother of little Annie Hudd, who will, of course, be played by Laurette Taylor, who created the rôle; James T. Powers will be Monty, the munition worker from Woolwich; Helen Ware will be Princess Lizzie, the strident voiced sister; Beryl Mercer will be the gin soaked mother; George M. Cohan will have the rôle of an American soldier in the hospital;

Chauncey Olcott will be the grouchy Irish soldier; James K. Hackett will be the deep voiced Canadian; O. P. Heggie will be the Cockney; Julia Arthur will play the Nurse, and George MacFarlane will be the Scotchman.

In the last scene Mrs. Fiske, for whom there was no rôle in the play, will deliver a stirring Red Cross appeal, and Mme. Eleonora de Cisneros, mezzo-soprano from the Chicago Opera Company, will sing the national anthems of the Allied nations. During the intermission between the second and third acts Burr McIntosh will auction off a souvenir programme.

The enterprise is perhaps the most important contribution ever made by the theatrical profession of America to a charitable cause. All of the artists are not only contributing their time and services entirely free of charge, but they are paying all their personal expenses as well.

Reports from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, which are to be visited during the first days of the week and where the boxes and first choice seats were auctioned off, indicate that the receipts for a single performance in each city will average about \$30,000, thus establishing new high records.

Revue at the Shelburne

The management of the Hotel Shelburne, at Brighton Beach, has announced that the summer revue which has been a feature at this resort for the past three years will have its initial production on the evening of May 28. Edward P. Bower is staging the production, which will be the biggest of its kind ever offered as a restaurant attraction. Forty-five artists have been engaged, and rehearsals are already well under way.

One-Week Stands

Bronx Opera House, "Come Out of the Kitchen" Columbia, "Hello, America!" Loew's 7th Avenue, "The Boomerang" Majestic, "Why Marry?" Montauk, "Love Forbidden" Standard, "Oh, Look!"

THE PARTNERS QUARREL AGAIN



Abe Potash (Barney Bernard) and Mawruss Perlmutter (Alexander Carr) in "Business Before Pleasure."

AMUSEMENTS

B.F. KEITH'S PALACE Broadway and 47th Street. Mat. Daily at 2, 25, 50, 75c. 2,000 CHOICE SEATS, 50c. Except Sat. and Holidays.

THE SPANISH DANCERS "LAND OF JOY" in a tabloid musical show, with new costumes and scenery from Spain—a dazzling revue of the national songs and dances of the Spanish Provinces, together with the smart popular hits of Madrid.

ELIZABETH BRICE THE ALWAYS POPULAR FAVORITE. Some Exclusive Songs. Some Popular Songs. Some Pretty Gowns.

JOHN B. HYMER & CO. Presenting "TOM WALKER IN DIXIE." A Fantastic Comedy Novelty. Written by and produced under the personal direction of Mr. Hymer.

ROCKWELL AND WOOD MARRIA LO'S Posing Novelty. 2 Noble Nuts Navigating the Ocean of Nonsense.

JOSEPHINE VICTOR AND A SELECTED COMPANY in "MAID OF FRANCE" By Harold Brighthouse, Author of "Hobson's Choice."

EVERY NIGHT 25, 50, 75c, \$1, \$1.50. 1,000 ORCH. SEATS, \$1.00. Except Sat. and Holidays.

HEARTS OF the WORLD The Sweetest Love Story Ever Told. A Romance of the Great War. Twice Daily, Inc. Sunday, 2:10 & 8:10.

STANDARD 25c-50c-75c-\$1-\$1.50. NO HORRORS. NOT A MOTION PICTURE.

Oh Look! HARRY FOX and BIG STAR CAST. WEEK ENDITH WYNNIE MATTHISON. MAY 20-21. "THE SERPENT IN THE HOUSE."

COLUMBIA B'way & 47th St. Commencing To-morrow Afternoon. 9th Annual All-Summer Show!

HELLO AMERICA! With SAM LEWIS. SARDODY. PRIMAIRE SEASON. And a vast assemblage of genuinely talented entertainers! Twice Daily. Moderate Price. Smoking Permitted. SEATS NOW ON SALE.

AMUSEMENTS

EMPIRE B'way & 46th St. Pm. at 8:15. Matinee Wed. and Sat., 2:15. "DISTINCT SUCCESS." Times CHARLES FROHMAN presents ETHEL **BARRYMORE BELINDA** IN THE NEW 3 ACT COMEDY "If you don't like Belinda then you don't know a delightful person when you see one."—Alan Dale. PRECEDED BY J. M. BARRIE'S "THE NEW WORD" "A Masterpiece of Pathos and Patriotism."—Post.

CENTURY Theatre, Central Park West & 42 St. 3 PERFORMANCES ONLY. Friday and Saturday Nights, May 17 & 18. At 8 O'Clock Sharp and Special Matinee Sat. At 2 O'Clock Sharp.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS Announces This Astounding Cast: GEORGE ARLISS, GEORGE M. COHAN, MRS. FISKE, JULIA ARTHUR, LAURETTE TAYLOR, CHAUNCEY OLCOTT, ELEANORA DE CISNEROS, BERYL MERCER, JAMES T. POWERS, O. P. HEGGIE, GEORGE MACFARLANE, H. B. WARNER, JAMES K. HACKETT, BURR MCINTOSH, HELEN WARE in J. Hartley Manners' Play, "OUT THERE" TICKETS \$1.00 to \$5.00.

SEAT SALE OPENS AT CENTURY BOX OFFICE TO-MORROW (Mon.)

NEW AMSTERDAM Theatre, Klaw & Erlanger, Managers. 50th GALT PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW NIGHT Klaw & Erlanger's Fascinatingly Funny Musical Comedy **THE RAINBOW GIRL** GREATEST and MERRIEST OF ALL NEW AMSTERDAM THEATRE MUSICAL COMEDY SUCCESSES! IT ADDS ROSEATE HUES TO THE JOY OF LIFE!

LIBERTY Theatre, 42nd St. Eves. 8:20 Mats. Wed. & Sat. at 2:20 COHAN & HARRIS present **GOING UP** The Matchless Musical Comedy Success! THE TALK OF THE TOWN

COHAN'S Theatre, B'way & 45 St. Pm. at 8:20. Wed. & Sat. Mat. at 2:20. Klaw & Erlanger. A SMACKING MUSICAL SUCCESS **THE KISS BURGLAR** FULL OF PUCKERING TUNES With PEACOCK ALLEY CHORUS

HUDSON Theatre **NANCY LEE** LAUGHS TEARS THRILLS by Eugene Walter with **CHARLOTTE WALKER and LEWIS STONE**

PARLOR BEDROOM and BATH THE FUN FESTIVAL by C.W. BELL and MARK SWAN FLORENCE MOORE Direction of A.H. WOODS THEATRE W. 42nd St. Mat. Wed. & Sat.

FRED STONE GLOBE FOR MAT. WEDNESDAY JACK O' LANTERN

MAJESTIC Mata. Wed. and Sat. week beginning to-morrow night. SELWYN & CO. present.

"WHY MARRY?" By JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS with a cast of unusual distinction. Nat C. Goodwin, Edmund Bruce, Shelley Hull, Ernest Lawford, Lotus Robb.

WINTER ORCHESTRA, \$1.00. Except Saturday Night.

LOVE FORBIDDEN HARRY FOX in Oh Look!

38TH CAPACITY WEEK **A TAILOR MADE MAN** COHAN & HARRIS THEATRE

PARLOR BEDROOM and BATH THE FUN FESTIVAL by C.W. BELL and MARK SWAN FLORENCE MOORE Direction of A.H. WOODS THEATRE W. 42nd St. Mat. Wed. & Sat.

FRED STONE GLOBE FOR MAT. WEDNESDAY JACK O' LANTERN

MAJESTIC Mata. Wed. and Sat. week beginning to-morrow night. SELWYN & CO. present.

"WHY MARRY?" By JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS with a cast of unusual distinction. Nat C. Goodwin, Edmund Bruce, Shelley Hull, Ernest Lawford, Lotus Robb.

WINTER ORCHESTRA, \$1.00. Except Saturday Night.

LOVE FORBIDDEN HARRY FOX in Oh Look!